proliferation matters, namely a unilateral moratorium on explosive nuclear tests, willingness to discuss converting it into a dejure obligation, decision to enter into constructive negotiations on the FMCT and reaffirming our policies on stringent control on export of sensitive technologies.

After several rounds, the talks had narrowed and now focussed on the four issues namely, CTBT, FMCT, Export Controls and Defence Posture.

Both delegations have expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the talks. As in earlier meetings, the security perspectives of the two sides were further clarified with a view to harmonising respective perspectives.

(b) Both sides recognised that the purpose of the talks is to lay the foundation of the broad-based relationship between India and the United States. In his correspondence with the Prime Minister, the President of the United States of America has expressed his desire for a broad-based relationship that befits the largest democracies of the world. We have reciprocated these sentiments. Such a broad-based relationship will include cooperation in a range of areas such as trade and investment, science and technology, defence, academics and culture.

(c) Government has regularly consulted various leaders of political parties. The Prime Minister made a statement on the talks with the United States in Parliament on 15th December, 1998. These aspects have also been discussed in the meetings of the Standing Committee as well as Consultative Committee of Parliament.

(d) and (e) India has stated that it remains committed to converting its voluntary moratorium on underground nuclear explosive tests into a de jure obligation. The Prime Minister stated in the UN General Assembly on 24th September, 1998 that "India is now engaged in discussions with our interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this Treaty without conditions".

Government has also stated that for the successful conclusion of the talks the creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient.

चीन के सन्दर्भ में मंत्री जी की टिप्पणियां

*51. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या विदेश मंत्री बताने कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 3 जनवरी, 1999 के "दि हिन्दू" में "मिनिस्टर्स कॉमेंट इरिस्पांसिब्ल: चाईना" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवंन्त सिंह): (क) जी हां।

(ख) "चीन गणराज्य" के साथ भारत के सरकारी अथवा राजनयिक संबंध नहीं है। हमारे नीतिगत स्वरूप के भीतर सरकार व्यापार, पर्यटन और निवेश संवर्धन के लिए ताईवान के साथ गए — सरकारी आर्थिक, व्यापारिक और सांस्कृतिक सम्पर्कों को बढ़ावा देती है।

Change in the base year for calculating macro-parameters

*52. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) has revised the base year from 1980-81 to 1993-94 for calculation of macro-parameters such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross Domestic Savings (GDS) rate, etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of this revision, a lot of uncertainity has been created about the

statistical base of the Ninth Five Year Plan which will be placed before National Development Council shortly; and

(c) if so, what was the compulsion for changing the base year just at this juncture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Changes in the base year of calculation of macro-economic aggregates do not materially affect the calculations of the Five Year Plan since the macro-economic balances continue to be maintained. As a result, the parametric estimates can be suitably adjusted to take into account the adjustment in the base.

(c) Change of base year of the National Accounts Statistics is a regular periodic exercise to provide the correct picture of the economy.

Implementation of Developmental Schemes under MPLADS

*53. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the implementation of various development works under the MPs Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) has been very tardy in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main reasons therefor and remedial steps, if any being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Some complaints of delay in implementation of works under MPLADS have been received. Some reasons for slow progress are : application of Model Code of Conduct during Elections of the Parliament, State Legislatures and Panchayati Raj Institutions, late receipt of recommendations from MPs, change in recommendation by MPs, non-availability of land etc. All the State Governments/UTs have been requested to issue instructions to all the concerned for prompt action and implementation of MPLADS works in accordance with the revised guidelines and also to ensure monitoring, supervision, coordination as outlined in these guidelines. All the District Collectors have also been asked to stipulate a time limit for the implementing agencies to complete the given work in a specific time frame depending upon nature of work and to take action against the implementing agencies in case of failure.

Inter-action meetings between the M.P.s and implementing officers like District Collectors have also been held on state level for some states.

Restriction on entry of Hong Kong

*54. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Hon Kong restricts Indians entry; visa needed for stay for over two weeks" that appeared in the *Times of India* dated the 19th Januanry, 1999;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the new procedure adopted in that regard and remedy, if any, suggested?